

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 9, 2008 MINUTES**

On Tuesday, December 9, 2008, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:45 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Madison County Courthouse in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Jim Hart, Marilyn Ross, and David Schulz present.

Jim Hart moved to approve the December 2, 2008, minutes with corrections. Marilyn Ross seconded the motion. Jim Hart and David Schulz voted aye. Marilyn Ross abstained from voting as she was not present for that meeting. The motion carried on a majority vote.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Gary Forney, Charity Fechter, Jim Jarvis, Chris Murphy, John Semingson, Barbie Durham, Jamie Davis, Karen Brown, Peggy Kaatz, Margie Edsall, Janie Alt, Leona Stredwick, Vicki Tilstra, Kathleen Mumme, and Joanne Erdall.

**Leech West Minor Subdivision Final Plat:** Jim Jarvis, Planner II, presented the Board with the final plat of Leech West Subdivision. Charity Fechter, Planning Director, and Chris Murphy, Landowner Representative, were also present for this portion of the meeting. Jim explained that this subdivision will split the existing 13.67 acre piece, identified as Tract 15A of a recorded Certificate of Survey in the Rising Sun River Estates, into two single family residential lots with Lot 1 being approximately 5.7 acres in size and Lot 2, containing 7.8 acres. There is an existing home and barn on the proposed Lot 1. Lot 2 is currently undeveloped, but is planned for a single family residence. Jim stated that all conditions have been satisfied and that final road work has been completed and recommended approval. Jim Hart moved to approve the final plat of Leech West Minor Subdivision, in Section 31, Township 9 South, Range 1 East, as recommended by Planning Staff, subject to road inspection by District 3 Commissioner and signatures of the property owners and the Madison County Treasurer. Marilyn Ross seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Planning Board Resignations:** Jim Jarvis, Planner II, and Charity Fechter, Planning Director, were present for this portion of the meeting. Marilyn Ross moved, with regret and gratitude for the years of service, to accept the resignation of Ed Ruppel from the Planning Board and to advertise the vacancy. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Charity noted that Ed has offered to continue his role as a geological advisor but not a formal member of the Board. After discussion, Marilyn Ross moved, with regret and gratitude for the years of service, to accept the resignation of Ann Schwend, as the Conservation District representative, as duly noted in the minutes of the November 24, 2008, Planning Board meeting; and to advertise the vacancy. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Library Board Appointment:** The Board discussed the reappointment of Gary Forney to the Library Board. Gary Forney was present for this portion of the meeting. After discussion, Jim Hart moved to appoint Gary Forney to the Library Board for a five year term that will expire June 30, 2013. Because he has been serving to fulfill an unexpired term, this will be Gary's first full five year term. Marilyn Ross seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Madison County Nursing Homes Projects:** John Semingson, Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center Administrator, Barbie Durham, Grant Writer, and Jamie Davis, representing the Madison Valley Hospital, met with the Board to discuss projects at both County nursing homes. John Semingson discussed nursing home budget issues. Jamie Baker discussed an offer made by the hospital to give the County a reduced rate on siding that had been purchased for the new hospital but was not used. The Board contacted Rick Schlenker and Jason Davis, SMA, via telephone, to discuss the purchase of this siding for the Madison Valley Manor project. Rick stated that amount of siding needed was about the same as what the hospital has on hand; and that the look and quality of the siding would work well at the nursing home. Rick will put together costs estimates to determine if it is advantageous to buy the package from the hospital or go direct to suppliers for new product. The generator project for the Sheridan Nursing home was also discussed.

**Road Signs:** Karen Brown, GIS/IT, met with the Board to discuss road signs. Karen asked about the quality of the signs that were ordered from the Department of Corrections for Virginia City Ranches roads. David Schulz stated that the signs will work very well. Karen discussed lists for signs needed in District 2 and 3 and funding options for these signs. Karen will check with Barbie Durham, Grant Writer, for the status of grant funding for signs. Karen will also check the prices of Stop signs and other traffic signs from the Department of Corrections.

**Public Discussion:** Marilyn Ross noted, for the record, that county employees are conducting a food drive to benefit both Madison County food banks and that donations are welcome.

**Claims:** The Board approved claims.

**Fair Board By-Laws:** The Board reviewed by-laws for the Madison County Fair Board and discussed expanding the Board if necessary. Marilyn stated that this had come up at the Fair Board meeting and it was determined that the by-laws could be amended if needed. Marilyn Ross moved to approve and adopt the Fair Board By-Laws, as recommended by the Fair Board. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Maintenance Resignation:** Marilyn Ross moved to accept the resignation of Roger Staley as Maintenance personnel and to advertise the position. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Mosquito Board Appointment:** The Board tabled this item until the next meeting.

**Ennis Airport Manager Position:** Because there was not a quorum at the December 8, 2008, Airport Board meeting, Barbie Durham, Airport Board Secretary, will provide Airport Board members with answers to questions that were asked of seven manager candidates and request that they recommend at least three candidates to be interviewed based on applications and responses to the questions. Barbie will schedule interviews with those selected.

**Advisory Board Summaries:** The Board discussed requesting advisory boards that don't already provide summaries of meetings to the Commissioners to send a condensed version of minutes and to send agendas far enough in advance to get them on the Commissioners' agenda.

**Lee Property/Office Space:** The Board discussed the option of purchasing the Lee property to be used for office space. Peggy Kaatz, Clerk and Recorder, Margie Edsall, Weed Coordinator, Janie Alt, Weed Office Clerk, Leona Stredwick, Planning Office Clerk, Vicki Tilstra, Chief Financial Officer, Karen Brown, GIS/IT, Kathleen Mumme, Deputy Clerk and Recorder, Joanne Erdall, Librarian, and Barbie Durham, Grant Writer, were present for this portion of the meeting. David Schulz gave a brief background on the need for County office space and the options that have been explored in pursuing the needed space, stating that the Lee residence has the most usable space of all properties that have been considered in the immediate area. Several questions were asked regarding the Lee property and plans to add on to the back of the Courthouse. Concerns included the cost of turning a residence into office space and then back into a residence; the possibility of not being able to resell the house once it is no longer needed; parking issues; uncertain economy; and safety issues related to getting to and from the house on icy roads. Everyone present agreed that the annex on the back of the Courthouse should be started as soon as possible because of ADA issues.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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David Schulz, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: December 16, 2008

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Administrative Assistant

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Peggy Kaatz, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County